

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A method for installation of an application software package on one or more target workstations from a source workstation, said one or more target
5 workstations and said source workstation all coupled to a network executing a network operating system, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) creating a pre-installation system snapshot of the software on said source workstation;
 - b) installing said application software package on said source
10 workstation;
 - c) creating a post-installation system snapshot of the software on said source workstation;
 - d) generating an application installation package from said pre-installation system snapshot, said post-installation system snapshot, and said
15 application software package, said application installation file comprising a plurality of commands for installing said application software package on said one or more target workstations;
 - e) storing said installation package at a storage location accessible by said one or more target workstations and said source workstations;
20 on each of said one or more target workstations;
 - f) saving a predetermined set of files; and
 - g) installing said application software package on said corresponding target workstation through said application installation file.
- 25 2. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step of generating an application installation file from said pre-installation system snapshot and said post-installation system snapshot is further comprised of the steps of:

h) identifying the differences between said pre-installation system snapshot and said post-installation snapshot; and

i) generating a plurality of instructions for installing said application software package based on the differences between said post-installation

5 snapshot from said pre-installation system snapshot.

3. The method as recited in Claim 2 wherein prior to said step of transmitting said application installation file to one or more target workstations performing the step of scheduling said installation of said application software
10 on said one or more target workstations.

4. The method as recited in Claim 3 is further comprised of the step of deinstalling said application software from said source workstation.

15 5. The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said network is an Ethernet Local Area Network.

6. The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said network operating system is NetWare.

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7. The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said step of installing said application software package on said corresponding target workstation through said application installation file is further comprised of the step of executing instructions from said application installation file including an instruction for
25 retrieving said application software from said storage location and instructions for modifying system files in said target workstation.

8. A method for installation of an application software package on a target workstation from a source workstation across a network, said method comprising the steps of:

a) generating a personality file for said target workstation, said personality file describing installation parameters for said application software package;

b) storing said personality file on said target workstation;

c) generating an installation package for said application software package on said source workstation;

d) transmitting said installation package across said network to said target workstation; and

e) said target workstation receiving said installation package and installing said application software package based on said installation package and said personality file.

9. The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step of generating an installation package for said application software package on said source workstation is further comprised of the steps of:

f) creating a pre-installation snapshot of said source workstation;

g) installing said application software package on said source workstation;

h) creating a post-installation snapshot of said source workstation;

i) comparing said pre-installation snapshot with said post-installation snapshot; and

j) generating said installation package based on the differences between said pre-installation snapshot and said post-installation snapshot.

10. The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said step of said target workstation receiving said installation package and installing said application software package based on said installation package and said personality file is further comprised of the step of executing instructions from said application
5 installation file including an instruction for modifying systems files in said target workstation according to said application installation file.

11. The method as recited in Claim 10 wherein prior to said step of transmitting said installation package across said network to said target
10 workstation performing the steps of:

k) scheduling a predetermined time for the installation of said application software on said target workstation; and

l) waiting for said predetermined time to be reached.

12. The method as recited in Claim 11 is further comprised of the step of
15 deinstalling said application software package from said source workstation.

13. A network for coupling at least a source workstation with a target workstation, said network comprising:

20 a media for connecting said source workstation with said target workstation;

said source workstation comprising:

a source workstation adapter for coupling said source workstation to said media;

25 means for generating an installation package for installing an application software package on said target workstation;

means for transmitting said installation package to said target workstation;

said target workstation comprising;

a target workstation adapter for coupling said target workstation to

5 said media;

means for receiving said installation package; and

means for installing said application software package based on said installation package.

10 14. The network as recited in Claim 13 wherein means for generating an installation package for installing an application software package on said target workstation is further comprised of:

means for generating a pre-installation snapshot of said system configuration of said source workstation and a post-installation snapshot of said
15 system configuration of said source workstation; and

means for generating an installation package based on said pre-installation snapshot and said post-installation snapshot.

15 15. The network as recited in Claim 14 wherein said means for generating an installation package based on said pre-installation snapshot and said post-installation snapshot is further comprised of:

means for determining the differences between said pre-installation snapshot and said post-installation snapshot; and

25 means for generating installation commands based on differences between said pre-installation snapshot and said post-installation snapshot.

16. The network as recited in Claim 15 wherein said source workstation is further comprised of means for assigning a time for transmitting said installation package to said target workstation.

5 17. The network as recited in Claim 16 wherein said means for receiving said installation package is a Terminate and Stay Resident program.

18. The network as recited in Claim 17 wherein said target workstation is further comprised of means for specifying custom installation parameters.

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19. The network as recited in Claim 18 wherein said means for installing said application software package based on said installation package is further comprised of means for installing said application software based on said custom installation parameters.

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20. The network as recited in Claim 13 further including a means for deinstalling said application software package from said target workstation.